

PROCEEDINGS
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RIBES ERYTHROCARPUM, A NEW CURRANT FROM
THE VICINITY OF CRATER LAKE, OREGON.

BY FREDERICK V. COVILLE.

Crater Lake is a remarkable body of the purest water, nearly circular in form, about ten kilometers (6 miles) in diameter and 600 meters (2,000 feet) in depth, without a visible outlet, occupying the bowl of an extinct volcano in the southern part of the Cascade Mountains of Oregon, situated about latitude 43° and longitude 122° . The surface of the water has an altitude of 1,902 meters (6,239 feet) and the surrounding cliffs rise 300 to 450 meters (1,000 to 1,500 feet) higher, some of the neighboring peaks reaching 2,400 and 2,700 meters (8,000 and 9,000 feet). The mountain slopes are densely forested, except where the trees have been burned off by sheep herders, and no settlements occur nearer than the plains below. It was the writer's good fortune to visit the place in August of the present year, at the time of the excursion of the Mazamas to that point. The Mazamas are an organization of mountain climbers, which originated in Portland, Oregon, and are doing a great deal to popularize the natural sciences, to make known the wonderful scenery of the Northwest coast, and especially to create and maintain a public sentiment toward the preservation of the magnificent forests of that region.

Nothing seems to have been published on the botany of this part of the Cascades, and indeed no botanist appears heretofore to have made a collection of the plants of the Crater Lake region. The collection made by the writer and Mr. John B. Leiberg from August 13th to 20th of the present year is therefore of unusual

interest. Only a partial examination of the specimens has been made thus far, and a full report must be deferred, but an interesting species, apparently undescribed, is here presented to the public.

***Ribes erythrocarpum* Coville & Leiberg, sp. nov.**

Shrub trailing upon the ground, devoid of prickles, the stems rooting and giving rise to ascending branches commonly 10 to 20 cm. in height, the herbage and inflorescence clothed with short glandular hairs; leaves angulate-orbicular in outline, rugose, commonly 2 to 3.5 cm. in diameter, on petioles nearly as long, 3 to 5-lobed, the sinuses extending one-half or two-thirds the way to the base, the lobes coarsely crenate and the crenatures unevenly but finely dentate-serrate; racemes erect, commonly 10 to 20-flowered, the bracts herbaceous, lanceolate to obovate, commonly 2 to 4 mm. long, persistent; flowers erect, contiguous, when expanded 6 to 8 mm. in diameter, on pedicels equaling the bracts; ovary beset with short glandular hairs; calyx not produced into a tube, the spreading lobes oblong, obtuse or broadly acute, yellow, minutely dotted with red, therefore appearing salmon-colored, sparingly and minutely pubescent without, glabrous within; petals broadly spatulate, glabrous, one-third to one-half the length of the calyx lobes and similar in color; filaments glabrous; style glabrous, 2-parted; fruiting racemes erect or sometimes declined by the weight of the berries; fruit on erect pedicels, scarlet, subpyriform to spherical, commonly 8 to 10 mm. in length, provided with short glandular hairs, the flesh white or translucent, insipid.

Type specimen in the United States National Herbarium, collected August 12, 1896, at an altitude of about 1,675 meters, in the canyon of Pole Bridge Creek, about 10 kilometers south of Crater Lake, Cascade Mountains, Oregon, by Frederick V. Coville and John B. Leiberg.

The plant appears from the structure of its flowers to be most nearly related to the *Ribes laxiflorum* of Pursh and the *Ribes howellii* of Greene (*R. acerifolium* Howell), from both of which it is at once distinguishable by its creeping habit and its glandular pubescence, in the latter of these characters and in its general appearance closely resembling Pursh's *Ribes viscosissimum*. Its herbage, however, possesses the rank odor of *Ribes prostratum* and *R. hudsonianum*, quite distinct from the citronella-like smell of *viscosissimum*. That species, too, has blue fruit and an elongated calyx tube. *Ribes erythrocarpum* grows in abundance about Crater Lake, in the forests of *Tsuga pattoniana*, to an altitude of at least 2,400 meters.